

CITY OF HOUSTON

Administration and Regulatory Affairs
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Date March 28, 2013

Subject: Letter of Clarification No. 4
Ready Mix Concrete 5-8 Sack for Various Departments

Reference: Invitation to Bid (ITB) No.: S06-S24535

To All Prospective Bidders:

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reasons:

- To revise the above referenced solicitation as follows:

1) At the City's electronic website, new Line Items have been **deleted** and **added** to the Official Bid page.

To answer the following questions:

1. *Question: The question was asked in the pre-bid meeting about bidding only a quadrant or multiple quadrants of the city's contract and I believe that the reply from Ms. Rhone was that the City could award the contract any way it wanted in part or in whole. Can you please confirm if this is the case?"*

Answer: "The bidder must own and operate plants capable of meeting the boundaries set-forth in Section B, page 6 of 22 Provision 4.0 GEOGRAPHICAL SERVICE BOUNDARIES, F.O.B. Bidder's Plant and the City will recommend award based on the requirements of this solicitation."

2. *Question: "15 % of the awarded contract must be (sub) awarded to a minority supplier for ready-mix concrete, according to the department's representative, can you let me know who would do the billing, manage the PO's, manage the quality, do the scheduling for deliveries, submittals, reporting, etc., for that portion of the contract? Will the City deal directly with the sub supplier for all their needs?"*

Answer: "The successful bidder shall be responsible for managing their subcontracting (i.e. Purchase Orders, billing, and quality etc.)"

3. *Question: "The mixes required to be quoted on the bid form need modification to their descriptions. For example, the 5- sack, 1.0 Aggregate, no fly ash mix has a unique CEMEX mix number. The 5-sack Concrete Mix, w/3/8 Aggregate, no fly ash mix has a unique CEMEX mix number. Therefore, each one must have a separate line item. On the bid form the following is the way the mixes are described?" (Line Item #1 used as an example).*

Answer: "Line Items have been changed at the e-bidding website."

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Jack Christie **Controller:** Ronald C. Green

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4. *Question:* "You are missing the "FOB Plant" portion of the bid form. I believe the City of Houston will be picking up concrete in the City's trucks, but on the bid form there was no FOB portion to the bid?"

Answer: "See Letter of Clarification No. 2."

5. *Question:* "The City can pick any amount it chooses to pick up FOB however, CEMEX policy requires that a minimum of 3 cubic yards be ordered for delivery (for CEMEX quality purposes) can this include somewhere in your bid form?"

Answer: "Section B, Page 5 of 22 Provision 2.0 DELIVERY AND/OR PICKUP, Sub-Provision 2.4 shall be incorporated in its entirety as follows: **The City will order a minimum of 3(three) cubic yards for deliveries from bidder's plant excluding items in Group II.**"

6. *Question:* "Can you clarify Line Item #6 and #7? We are not sure what this requirement means. We are not clear on what the 1 to 5 Cu.Yd. means. We are not clear on what "VOLUMETRIC ON SITE MIX CONCRETE TYPE-ON SITE MIXTURES" implies or what is required?"

Answer: "A Volumetric concrete mixer truck is a mixing device that measures the raw materials using volume rather than weight. The volumetric mixer blends the concrete mixture using an auger or a paddle or a drum device to mix the ingredients with water. The volumetric mixing process starts with a batch metering system that allows the volume of raw materials to be measured prior to entering the mixing chamber. This process can be as simple as using a measured bucket to highly sophisticated and computerized batch plants that feed the correct volume. The City wants to be able to dispense amounts of mixed concrete from 1 to 5 Cu. Yd. and from 6 to 12 Cu. Yd (pricing structure)."

7. *Question:* "Line Item #11, Saturday service. CEMEX, like any transportation company is regulated by Department of Transportation. The number of hours we have available for Saturday delivery is determined by these regulations. Therefore we cannot guarantee delivery on Saturday or Sunday. This line item also states that the City will not pay fees if the Contractor is providing services to other customers on that day. This is correct for "FOB Plant" however we cannot guarantee a delivery unless the delivery is on the schedule and has been confirmed by our Customer Service personnel prior to the delivery date"

Answer: "The guarantee is only for agreed upon time, place and purchase order agreement. The City wants to ensure that the employees scheduled to complete a project will not be on hold awaiting concrete."

8. *Question:* "Due to current demand for concrete in our market we request that the lead time for "Delivered" concrete be increased from 24 hours to a minimum of 48 hours. CEMEX is currently booking deliveries on week out. Again, this is for "Delivered" only."

Answer: "Section B, Page 5 of 22 Provision 2.0 Delivery And/or Pickup, Sub Provision 2.2, first sentence **change** twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48).

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9. *Question: "Line Item 13, ADDITIVE COLORANT, CONCRETE MIXER, 4.7? The colors described in the specifications sheet cannot have a single price quoted. Color additive are not stocked by CEMEX at our facilities. When color is required the designated color must be quoted by the company supplying the product to CEMEX. There are a number of color suppliers and they each provide quoted for their products. Those prices are subject to change due to market conditions, delivery costs, etc. Delivery of the color additives tour facilities require lead time from those suppliers therefore can clarification be provided as to when, how much, how often color would be required?"*

Answer: "Line Items No. 13 has been deleted, In Section B Pages 9 and 10 of 22, Provision 10.0 PIGMENTS/COLORANT FOR INTEGRALLY COLORED CONCRETE" is deleted in its entirety."

10. *Question: "The response in regards to my question about is it a requirement to have a plant in all four quadrants was not answered clearly?" The response given was to refer back to "Facilities and Service Requirements". There is nothing there regarding such a requirement this is why I raised the question. Actually the below wording of the section clearly implies that the bid is separated out by quadrants. I believe that the ability to not be able to bid online based on quadrants is not correct because all of the wording in the contract states otherwise (please see reference below taken straight from the bid document). It seems if this is a requirement it would preclude smaller minority owned business from the ability to bid on projects such as this. Also if this was a requirement why it is not clearly stated in the RPF anywhere?? Please clarify this question with the person responsible with the content of the RFP document.*

Answer: "The requirement is that the bidder must own and operate plants capable of meeting the boundaries set-forth on page 6 of 22 Provision 4.0 Geographical Services Boundaries. FOB Bidders Plant."

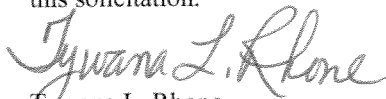
11. *Question: "Can you please forward me your current bid tab for this product: READY MIX CONCRETRE 5-8 SACK MIX FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS."*

Answer: "Bidders may access the bid tab at [https:// purchasing.houstontx.gov](https://purchasing.houstontx.gov), select the search button, and at the Status Tab select "Closed" in the keywords section enter, S22460, select search."

- Due to the aforementioned change to the e-bidding website you may need to edit your bid. To do so please select the "Bid Number" and proceed accordingly.

This Letter of Clarification will be considered part of the solicitation referenced on the first page of this document. All revisions, responses, and answers incorporated into the Letter(s) of Clarification are collaboratively from both the Strategic Purchasing Division and the applicable City Department(s).

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each Supplier to obtain any previous Letter(s) of Clarification associated with this solicitation.



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DRH
CDW/DRH/TLR

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